**CARA BOARD MINUTES MAY 9, 2024**

**Board Members Attending: President Brian Kress KB3WFV, Vice-President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR, Director Dave Weaver W3PQS**

**Members attending: Kim K3OCM, Andy KC3WRX, Don, KR3A, Lisa Kress**

**Special Guest: Mike Grierson, Calvert County Emergency Manager**

The Board meeting was called to order 6:37pm

Board had a quorum of all five officers present

This was our first meeting to be held at our new location, the County EOC at the Public Safety Building (PSB) on Stafford Road, Prince Frederick. Thanks to Mike Grierson and N3XMZ for securing this venue.

The President announced that our new CARA web site, <https://www.k3cal.club> is up and running. Donations to CARA can be made from the site and CARA 'Facebook' posts are automatically transferred to CARA’s 'website' page.

The President volunteered to be the Registered Agent for CARA’s 502C3 tax records, replacing KB3RAN (SK). The Board approved the change and the President will take care of this on-line after the meeting.

The Treasurer announced that all our tax paperwork for 2023 has been submitted except for renewal of our Maryland tax free status which must wait until the Registered Agent change is made. Our Maryland tax identification number may change.

W3PQS provided details on the new 2M duplexer that CARA is hoping to acquire after sufficient donations are made. The duplexer is a Telewave model TARD-1556 with N connectors, to be tuned to 146.985 MHz for TX and 146.385 MHz for RX. The cost is $3429.00 with $95.00 (plus or minus $10.00) for shipping. The Telewave quote is good for 90 days (Thursday, July 25, 2024). An extension of 30 days may be possible.

W3PQS and KC3WRX volunteered to lead our Field Day efforts but are looking for volunteers to help and learn the ropes for Field Day planning. Volunteers are need for setup, teardown and cleaning.

CARA participation in the Maryland QSO party ( 1400Z, Aug 10 to 0400Z, Aug 11, 2024 ) is still uncertain pending on finding a suitable location. One suggestion was made to set up a couple of member’s campers at the Breezy Point campground to serve as a base.

Further effort to offer surplus CARA equipment to the membership was postponed to the next or subsequent meeting.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES May 9, 2024**

**Attending: President Brian Kress KB3WFV, Vice-President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR, Director Dave Weaver W3PQS, Kim K3OCM, Bill N3XMZ, Andy KC3WRX, Lisa Kress, Daire AC3KX, Charlie AB3LE, Ed WB6NCO, Mike N1LMC, Mark KC3VNH, Dale N3ILH**

**Via Zoom: Dave KC3RWT, Abe KC3WOA, Phil NO3N**

**Special Guest: Mike Grierson, Calvert County Emergency Manager**

**Readers are encouraged to see the Board minutes above.**

The meeting was called to order by President Brian Kress at 7:33 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

The April meeting minutes were approved.

A warm welcome to our new member, Sergio Perez, KC3YEG, who was voted in.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer reported we had $5015.24 in our bank account as of April 30, 2024 and $3000.00 this in an eight month CD yielding 4.75%.

Calvert AUXCOMM EC and AEC: N3AE provided an update on the equipment for the EOC at the Public Safety Building. All the radios and RemoteRig equipment has been mounted on their respective shelves programmed and checked out. What remains is to tie down some cabling, installing the radio heads and RemoteRigs at our EOC position, install the radio shelf in the equipment room rack and attached connectors to the hardline between the entry panel and our rack. The target date to complete is the end of June but hoping to finish sooner.

KC3WRX will be coordinating this month’s AUXCOMM meeting to be held on Thursday, May 16, 7PM at the PSB EOC. Note the new time, 3rd Thursday instead of 3rd Wednesday. This is an opportunity for Calvert AUXCOMM members to tour the PSB EOC, radio equipment room and get an update on the RACES equipment installation. We will also be looking for more volunteers to fill-out spots on our 2024 hurricane staffing plan. The President suggested we consider rescheduling the CARA (2nd Thursdays) and AUXCOMM(3rd Thursdays) meetings to provide more time between them. The suggestion was taken under consideration.

RACES Officer: N3XMZ was unable to participate in COMMEX this week due to a conflict but plans to participate in a table top exercise on May 16.

Field Day: W3PQS and KC3WRX volunteered to lead our Field Day efforts but are looking for volunteers to help and learn the ropes for Field Day planning. Volunteers are need for setup, teardown and cleaning. N3AE will invite the Civil Air Patrol. We also need to work out the bugs for a networked logging system BEFORE field day. It was decided to accomplish that during our June meeting, if not before.

Mike Grierson: FEMA will be evaluating Calvert County Emergency Operations during a formal exercise on September 10, 2024. A practice run will occur in August. Calvert Emergency Management needs the RACES equipment operational at the PSB EOC prior to the practice exercise. With the county’s purchase of the building at 110 Main St, Prince Frederick, MD, there’s been some relocation of emergency management staff.

Brian, KB3WVF, gave an excellent presentation on the “do’s” and “do not’s” for mobile radio installations. The presentation covered topics such as how to power the radio (direct connection to the battery with fuses on both positive and negative) and issues relating to antenna placement. At a future CARA meeting or special event, we are planning to offer a mobile radio checkout session. Bring your vehicle.

The President encouraged membership to donate for the new duplexer purchase and offered to double any $5.00 donation made during the meeting. This resulted in $250.00 of on-the –spot donations. In addition, KR3A, N3XMZ and WB6NCO each donated $100.00. AC3KX won the $47.00 50/50 pot and donated the entire amount to CARA. With donations already received, this brings the amount still needed to somewhere near $700.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Upcoming events:

May 19 Testing at St Mary’s county

TBD Mobile radio installation checkout (likely some Saturday)

June 8 Testing at AARC, Davidsonville

June 22-23 Field Day (Brooms Island)

Aug 10 Maryland QSO Party